

Lazy Dungeon Master 6 – Dungeon Management, Begin!

written by Supana Onikage

Translated by

[Ziru](#)

Illustrations by Youta

[EPUB by eCookie | ecookiepubs](#)



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Investigation Commission: Heaven - (Adventurer's Point of View

I, Uzoh, am an adventurer. I am a veteran C-Rank warrior.
Together with my companion, Muzoh, we've completed many commissions.

This time we've received a commission to investigate a dungeon that went through its [Transition Phase].

"Wasn't it just a dungeon where nothing but goblins came out? Nothing else?"

"Don't get careless, Muzoh. Dungeons go under huge structural changes after their [Transition Phase], there might be a lot more monsters now."

"Geez, you're such a worrywart, Uzoh..."

Seriously, Muzoh is beyond careless even though he's the scout. I know that's just coming from Muzoh's own self-confidence though.

"Heeh, check it out Uzoh. There's an inn by the dungeon's entrance. They told us about it, but still."

"We'll stop here for the night and dive into the dungeon tomorrow, sound good to you?"

"Yeah, I agree."

The building looked great. We went inside right away.

There was a woman wearing cute black and white clothes on the other side of the counter.

The frilly cloth attracted my eyes.

"Thanks for your patronage! This is the [Dancing Doll's Pavilion]!"

The beauty had a Pavueran accent and had features like a doll's, and... well endowed huh.

I wonder if the 'doll' in [Dancing Doll's Pavilion] is referring to her? I found myself admiring her in a daze.

Recollecting myself, I asked how much it'd be to stay for the night. It was fifty copper per night per person, so one silver for two people. We rented a room for two.

Hmm, isn't this pretty cheap for something so deep in the mountains?

It might be pretty severe for newbie adventurers, but it's a small expense for a C-Rank like me.

"Ah, meals're extra. Ya can use the bath however much ya want though!"

"Bath? Hooh, so this inn has a bath huh?"

"That's right~. It's a hot spring, so a ton'a people can all get in. Oops, they're pretty popular in Pavuera, but're they unusual here?"

They're unusual in Sia, but I'm a C-Rank adventurer. In other villages, including Pavuera, I've went into public bath houses.

"We have bath outfit lendin' services. Oops, for food we got from A-Rank to G-Rank, almost forgot about that~"

"Heeh, so there's something rare like an A-Rank thing...—!? A-a gold coin...!?"

"That's right~, the top-class A-Rank meal is the huge amount of one gold coin! In return it's monumentally tasty! I guarantee it! So good ya might die~♪"

A-as expected, it's out of my reach.

The heck kind of thing is it...!?

"Hmmm, maybe I should just get the C-Rank one... eh, five silver..."

"That's right~, the C-Rank one is five silver coins. It's still really good. Do ya wanna hear the details?"

"No, I'll pass..."

When I looked at the price list, A-Rank was one gold, B-Rank was fifty silver, C-Rank was five silver, D-Rank was one silver, E-Rank was fifty copper, F-Rank was five copper, and G-Rank was one copper.

“Uzoh, I’ve decided. C-Rank!”

“O-oi. That’s the same as the reward from this commission! What’re you doing, wouldn’t that make this a deficit? I won’t lend you money you know!?”

“Hahaha, we should be able to get some separate rewards from this dungeon right? It’s fine then. Hey Ojou-san, what’s your name? When’re you done working? I’m Muzoh, a C-Rank adventurer.”

Muzoh, what kind of pick-up artist are you trying to be? Don’t be so faithful to your lust, oi.

“Oooh~, is that so~, thank you so much for your patronage, take your time~. Ah, what about the Oniiii-san over here? I recommend getting at least the D-Rank~”

“... I’ll take the D-Rank one. Still, a silver for it huh, expensive.”

“It’s just tastes that good... Thanks for your patronage~... Ah, it’s ‘kay if you wanna enter the bath first. Want me to bring food up to ya later?”

“Yeah, please do.”

“Heeey, at least tell me your name~?”

She pointedly ignored Muzoh as I handed her the money, receiving our meal tickets in return. It seems like we’ll be able to turn them in for a meal when we go to the dining room later. I see.

Then she told us our room number and lent a key... Guess we’ll put our luggage in our room before heading straight to the hot spring?

When we opening the room with our key, the room had a shelf, cabinet, and beds. Though there weren’t any light magic tools, there was a lamp... I wonder if the oil’s sold separately?

... Eh, the heck’s this bedding... cotton?

I heard that there’s a bath, so I was prepared for the bedding to be wooden... ooh, my hand sinks in! Just this alone would’ve been worth the fifty copper.

Yeah, now I’m going to go check out the bath.

There were shelves that took my key in the changing room. This was also in Pavuera’s bath houses huh.

Hmm, so this is the bathing wear? She definitely said we could use them freely. I took my clothes off and changed into the ones for bathing, putting my clothes away on the shelf... Eh, aren’t these

better tailored than my clothes? I kind of want to just keep wearing these.

I then entered the room with the bath... it's really amazing.

It's a splendid stone bath. Steam rose up from the hot water that filled the bath.

... For them to use so much water so deep in the mountains like this... I wonder if there's a water source nearby?

Well, that's probably why there's an inn here.

I couldn't wait any longer, so I used [Cleanup] on myself and entering the bath.

"O-ooooh..."

I unintentionally let out a voice... This is so good. It seriously is.

This is definitely a selling point for the inn... other than me not eating yet, I'm already very satisfied.

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Muzoh entered at some point, it surprised me.

I got out of the bath. I'll definitely get in again... Well, I use it as much as I want while I stay here huh. Let's do it again tomorrow morning.

... Hm? What's with this chair... is that a slot for copper coins?

When I took a look at it, I saw its description written on the wall. It was apparently a massage chair. Was it a magic tool found in the dungeon?

But if I fall asleep while I'm still on the chair, I can't complain even if someone else rolls me off of it onto the floor.

... One copper for five minutes huh. This massage chair's caught my eye, guess I'll give it a go.

Sitting on the chair, I put a copper into it.

After a low humming sensation, the chair suddenly began to vibrate.

O-oooh, t-the heck's this? I haven't felt a massage like this before...

Oooh, oooooh!?

My body relaxed and I felt myself loosening up, this really is, oooh...

“Oi Uzah, wake up. Don’t you know you’d catch a cold sleeping there?”

“Fuoh—!? O-oooh, Muzoh. Ah, looks like I fell asleep.”

Looks like I was sleeping here pretty soundly until Muzoh woke me up. Heh, this massage chair is incredible...

“Hehe, time for some food! Used five silver on that C-Rank meal, I’m starving!”

“Oh? Right, I spent a silver on that D-Rank meal huh. Wonder what the difference is...”

Going to the dining room as we were told, we exchanged our meal tickets for our meal.

We didn’t even have to wait, it was served immediately.

“Here it is.”

A young brown-haired beastkin carried our meals. She was clothed in the same outfit as that woman who was behind the counter, very cute.

There were a few things served on my square tray... a deep brown soup and bread. And salad. This costs one silver? Well, I can already tell that it’s really high quality food from the smell though.

“For another helping of bread, it’s ten copper each. Then, after the meal, you’ll get dessert.”

“Dessert? Why didn’t we get it now?”

“It’s cold, so it’s not recommended. Do you still want it?”

Cold? The heck kind of thing is it?

Let’s just go with the recommended way for the meal.

“Oh? What’s up Uzoh? Too little?”

“No no, this is plenty enough. So that’s C-Rank huh? That’s a lot.”

“Yeah, mine’s C-Rank, five times better than Uzoh’s! Hahaha.”

As for Muzoh's meal, it had one more dish compared to mine, a big steak. It also had two loafs of bread.

I'm a bit envious for that thick steak... huh? The color of his soup's different, it's white.

"And this comes with dessert too eh?"

"Mine does too... steak, huh. Looks pretty good, what kinda meat's it?"

"Isn't this boar? ... Uooh—!? What's with this bread, it's so soft and tasty!?"

"Rather, it's white... the heck, this bread's amazing... oops, the bread's almost gone before I've even touched the soup."

I brought the soup to my mouth in a rush.

...!? I'm astonished, this taste is amazing. It tastes like meat. Rather, now that I'm taking a better look at it there's meat in it. There's vegetables in it too, plenty of them.

"Uoh, the heck's this, rabbit? ... No, boar? Or maybe it's minotaur..."

"Hahaha, minotaur huh, how would they make a profit from that with one silver coin? Besides, aren't we the only guests?"

"Yeah... looks like the color of my soup's a bit different than yours... oi, what's yours?"

"Huh? Mmm...!? Woah, it's thick, but feels like its weightless. What's that, milk? I think some stews use it... Aah, right, I ate one in the imperial capital."

"Looks good. Give me some!"

"No way, this is mine!"

Yeah, this place's soup is great.

Let me bolt down this salad...!? W-what the, w-what's with this food? Even the salad's surprising.

... What's this dressing? It's yellowish, and white... oil?

"Oh, yer eatin'. How's it, good right~? It's so tasy~. Aah, how's the [Mayonnaise] that came with the salad?"

That girl who was sitting at the reception sat next to me... Uoh, she smells amazingly good...

"Wai—, sit next to me!"

“Haha, endure~, I don’t like insistent people~. I just felt like explainin’ in my spare time. Lessee, that white soup. An-chan had it right, it’s a soup called a stew that uses milk. Can’t find it much around here, but it’s eaten pretty often in the imperial capital.”

Heeh, so what Mozuh said was correct huh.

“Then that brown stew. Surprisin’ yah? It’s beef stew!”

“... Huh? Beef, as in cattle? Eh, isn’t that for celebrations!?”

Beef, as in the thing meant for celebrations, the thing that you only get a chance to eat at celebrations when old cattle gets slaughtered. There’re ranches at the imperial capital, and although it looks like you can eat it at other times, it’s crazy expensive.

“W-wait a sec. Isn’t his brown stew better than my white stew then!?”

“Hahaha, it’s not like that at all... That steak, it’s beef. There aren’t many guests now... rather, you’re our first guests, so it’s free as a freebie yah?”

“Woah! ... Uooh, th-this is beef huh... it’s worth more than five silver...”

I see, so it just opened. I guess it’s opening also counts as a celebration.

... The meat’s quality is amazing. Is that special as well?

“A-aah, right right. Right now there’s a special, it’ll usually be boar meat. To make sure we’re properly welcome the adventurers that built this inn, we’re preparin’ various things to practice.”

“The adventurers that build the inn?”

“... All I can say is A-Rank adventurers, anythin’ else’s a secret~”

A-Rank adventurers huh... to even kill off a cow, they’re definitely being welcoming.

I guess they’re cooking the extra beef in order to practice.

Still, with these spices and seasonings, even if it’s boar meat instead of beef, it’d still easily be worth the silver.

Even the bread’s great, everything’s worth licking clean.

“Oops, guess it’ll be time for dessert soon. Senpai! Bring it~!”

“Y-es...”

And so the beastkin from before brought us our dessert.

White... no, yellow. It was shaped like a mound and looked mysteriously like a flower from above. There was a brown sauce drizzled over it.

“This is...?”

“S’called [Pudding], a dessert. Aah, this only comes with the D-Rank meal and up, that’s why I recommended it to ya... eat it with resolve... doesn’t it just melt with sweetness?”

Muzoh held it up in his spoon and gulped it down together with his saliva.

The woman watched him with a huge grin.

Plunging the spoon into the [Pudding], I scooped it up. It jiggled back and forth.

And then...

... Today, I saw heaven.

Investigation Commission: Hell - (Adventurer's Point of View)

We reluctantly left the inn behind.

... Ahh, I wanted to stay another night at least.

The bath was good, the food was good, even the bedding. Everything was high quality.

One silver and fifty copper including meal fees, beyond cheap!

Ahh, I'll stay another night before turning in the commission, then come back for another afterwards.

When we entered the dungeon, the first room was filled with pitfall traps.

If it weren't for Muzoh's skill, [Sense Danger], we would've fell into the pitfalls just like that.

"Grah, dammit, I at least wanted to hear her name... I'll get her to tell me when we get back for another night."

Muzoh was being very devoted to that receptionist girl. Well, she was a beauty after all.

I feel like this happened before... ah.

"Ah... Muzoh, it's a bit late for this, but.... I know her name."

"What!? What the, when did you get on such good terms with her!?"

"It's Sorin."

I recalled my bitter memories concerning Sorin.

... Aah, she really was stripped of all she had by that hand of cards...

She was awfully strong with her sake, her stomach was a bottomless pit. Just how many adventurers did she trick into emptying their wallets as they treated her?

In addition, though she didn't have many skills to speak of her strength was above a C-Rank's.

“Sorin? ... Wait, Sorin the [Demonic Gourmand]!? T-that’s her!?”

“I heard a rumor that she’d fallen into slavery, but why’s she at a place like this...”

“Eh—, she’s a slave? I didn’t notice at all...”

She had a collar on, oi... It was pretty hard to notice with her outfit though.

Hmm, other than his attention darting towards women, it really is safe with him as the scout.

... Particularly today’s dungeon investigation, he’s excellent if it isn’t related to women... probably.

“Still, there’s just goblins appearing, eh Uzoh?”

“I wonder if that’s since it was a dungeon where just goblins came out to start with... That aside, there’s a ton of traps huh. They’re even all deadly.”

“Almost became a pincushion to those pitfalls huh. Close call.”

“Seriously, pay attention!”

While collecting the right ears of goblins we killed, we advanced quickly.

Oh, a box.

“Muzoh, there’s a box here. Check it out.”

“There’s... no traps. Alright alright, treasure-cha~n—oooh, it’s a mana potion!”

“Nice! That’s a silver coin.”

We continued on in a good mood. Muzoh had to use his [Little Heal] a few times, so he probably had a bit of a heavier responsibility than most adventurers.

And then we came to some stairs.

“That magic sword we were told about was probably gotten after this yeah, Uzoh?”

“Yeah, I’m looking forward to it, Muzoh... Brace yourself.”

Golems appeared on the second floor.

But they weren’t a match for us either.

“—[Slash]!”

My iron sword sliced right through the clay golems' bodies.

If they're just on this level, I can defeat them even if I don't purposely aim to break the magic stone. As for how to defeat golems, there were three main ways.

The first is to break its magic stone.

Magic stones are the heart of a golem. It's somewhere inside its body, sometimes inside of it. If you destroy it, the golem will stop moving.

The second way is to attack it with with offensive magic skills. Golems are basically dolls that move by way of magical power, so it's weak to its magical power being disturbed by offensive magic. Well, I don't have any way to attack with magic though.

The third way was to just give it large amounts of damage, that's it.

The magical power that dwelled in the golem would disperse, it's that kind of this... well, it's probably the same thing more or less. When you attack the golem a few times with something that exceeds its defenses, it'll abruptly weaken and give you an opening, if you attack it right then—

“Another one down.”

When I cut the golem in half, it returned to being dirt.

Muzoh then collected the unharmed magic stone.

“Nice job, Uzoh. We can get magic stones because of that, pretty good.”

We could collect magic stones from golems that had them on their surface, but we ignored them for golems that had them on the inside since it would take too long.

We didn't have enough extra room to do that with just us two anyway.

Then we found a small room while searching through the labyrinth.

“Hmm? The heck's this. This path looks different from the others... ah, a [Safety Zone]!”

“Oh, I see. Let's take a bit of a break. —Oi, there's a sword, hey! Muzoh!”

“It's stuck in the pedestal huh. Doesn't look like there's any traps, let's try approaching.”

While Muzoh watched our surroundings, we walked into the room. [Safety Zones] didn't have traps to begin with though. Monsters wouldn't even go into it.

... Then, we got close to the pedestal.

"Hm? Just now, did you hear anything from that passage? Muzoh."

"Eh, not really. Want me to take a look?"

"Might be dangerous if you just head back unprepared. Let's check out this sword first... Oi, there's a magic stone in it! It's a magic sword!"

I shouted out instinctively. My dream is to have a magic sword, but why's there one on such a shallow floor?

"Heeh, it's nice. Could I use it too?"

"We found this one pretty quick, so if we find another one it'll be Muzoh's."

"I didn't find any traps. It'll be fine even if you pull it out... hmm? Crap wait! Don't pull it out!"

"Eh?"

Looks like Muzoh's [Sense Danger] sensed a trap. However, he was too slow. In my excitement, I already pulled out the sword.

Crash! The sound of something hard grinding against something else resounded from the passage.

... When I took a look, the passage had been entirely blocked with needles that were thicker than a sword.

It was like being inside a beast's mouth.

"Oi, you said..."

"... Sorry, the reaction was delayed since there weren't any traps targeting us directly..."

We got shut in....!?

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How much time's passed?

Muzoh said that this trap isn't dangerous itself and should withdraw in time, and I agree with him. We decided to take a rest in this room we called a safety zone in the meantime.

Seriously though, this magic sword feels amazing.

Despite us taking a break, I found myself passing the time by using it before I realized it.

... Fufufu, this is the start of the Magic Sword Samurai Uzoh's big break!

"Really, you were beyond careless even though I didn't find any traps in the safety zone, Uzoh."

"But it's a magic sword, a magic sword! The iron sword I've been using up to now wasn't that bad, but come on, I tried it out on that wooden doll over there and it's incredibly sharp!"

"Aaah~, yeah yeah... Hey, let me try it out for a bit. I really want to see how good it is."

"Sure, there's another doll left."

I passed Muzoh the magic sword.

"Heeh, it's amazing. It gets super sharp when I put magical power into it. As expected of a magic sword."

"Right!? For us to find a magic sword this good at such a shallow floor, we were lucky."

"We're blocked in now though."

"... Don't say that..."

We laughed together, cracking jokes at each other.

With feelings like that, we were able to pass our time comfortably. Until the second day.

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We were still confined by the third day. Though I can make water with [Water], we're slowly running out of food.

“... Why the heck hasn't it opened yet?”

“Hmm, yeah. I thought that we might be able to break out ourselves, but it's no use with these needles. We can't get out.”

“Perhaps it's from pulling out the magic sword, is there a switch there?”

“I tried putting my sword in it, but it didn't work...”

“... Then should we destroy it?”

“Doubtful. You, can we cut the needles? They're iron.”

“... How about using [Slash] with the magic sword?”

“I don't know if it'd break.”

I don't want to, but I'll give it a shot when the time comes.
For now, Muzoh and I continued to look around the room.

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The fifth day of being confined.

“It's no use... I can't find any way to get out, we're almost out of food too.”

“Hey Muzoh, I wonder if anyone'd come to rescue us...”

“... I don't feel like dying. I wonder if that's why they sent us? Huh...”

“Yeah, maybe...”

For instance, they sent C-Rank adventurers in to the dungeon. If they didn't return, they would guess it's hard and set the place's ranking to at least that.

In other words, the investigation included the possibility of us dying. Of course, we understood that when we accepted the commission.

“... Dammit, if I knew this'd be how it ended I would've got that C-Rank meal too...”

“Oi cut it out, stupid Uzoh, I'm hungry! Aah come on, shit, now I'm remembering that meal... Shiiit, if I make it through this I'm going to get that A-Rank meal even if I have to sell everything I have!”

“... Well, guess it's time to try it huh. Time to use [Slash] on the needles with the magic sword... This magic sword is valuable, but

not compared to my life.”

“You sure? The magic sword might break ya know?”

“Want to shut up and die then? This isn’t something to joke about...”

I brandished the magic sword, filling it with magical power.

When there was plenty in it, I attacked with all I had.

“... Haaaaaah, [Slash]!”

Giriri! With an echoing metallic sound, it shaved off a bit of the needle... if it’s like this, I can do it!

“Uzoh! Again!”

“Yeeaah! ... [Slash]!!”

Giririririri! There was an even louder metallic ringing, the sound of metal striking metal. Some more of the needle was scraped off. Again!

“Now, I’m coming... [Slash]—!!”

Giririririririri! Like death throes, the needle rang out as it broke... I did it, it broke!

“Uzoh! Booyah!”

“Yeah—! ...—!”

However, I couldn’t move anymore.

... The needle wall was destroyed. But at the other end, there was another. It was the same kind of needle wall...

“I-it’s all right, you just need to break through it, one more time.”

“... Hey, oi, it’s no good.”

“What’re you saying, Muzoh? Don’t you want to get out?”

“I want to... But... the magic sword’s at its limit. It can’t be used anymore...”

Eh? I looked at the magic sword.

In exchange for forcibly cutting through the iron needles, the blade was cracked.

The heck, this... is a magic sword right? It shouldn’t break from something like this...

“Moreover, look. The needles are just restoring themselves... if we go any farther, we’ll just get skewered.”

“Dammit...”

I went back unwillingly.

A dungeon’s walls and traps restore themselves over time.

That was the part that wasn’t really like being confined in the mouth of a beast. Even though this rare magic sword was sacrificed...

In the end, today just resulted in cracking the magic sword.

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It’s the eighth day... I think. In this enclosed space with no sun, it’s hard to tell time.

And we were out of food.

We planned to be gone two or three days at the most to start with. Maybe I should say we were lucky to bring this much?

... Well, we’re still blocked in by the needle wall.

We’re helpless.

Our interactions with each other were getting more and more violent.

“This all happened because Uzoh just had to pull out the magic sword on his own... even though I said don’t.”

“Muzoh said it was fine to pull out the sword, so I took it. Changing your mind so soon after, what you did was worse.”

Things like that. It wasn’t just things that had to do with the sword. Our complaints right now were things like being stinky, wanting to strangle each other to stop the snoring, or talking just to insult and blame each other.

Even so, we wouldn’t actually kill each other. We’re still brothers connected by strong bonds. Perhaps if we were parted with someone else, we might kill them or fight for food or something.

“... Enough already, let’s leave it at that. Sorry for insulting you, Muzoh.”

“Huh? ... Well it’s fine, but what’s gotten into you Uzoh?”

“If we don’t do anything and just stay locked in here, aren’t we just waiting to fight each other?”

“... If it’s come to that, there’s no point blaming each other. It was my bad too, well, as usual.”

“Aaah, the dungeon this time is pretty hard, so that’s why. Yeah? Uzoh.”

... I wonder if we could eat the goblin ears. No, they’ve probably already rotted...

I closed my eyes to rest in order to suppress my energy use.

First Customers

With the dungeon redecorated, our operation here is becoming more and more genuine.

Though saying that might be me being enthusiastic, since adventurers won't immediately rush in.

By the way, this inn's name is [Dancing Doll's Pavilion]. That way even if they see golems cultivating fields, I'll be able to stick with the story: "It's been that kind of inn since the start." The [Setting] established that the owner, Rokuko, uses golems.

... In reality Rokuko was listening to orders, and it won't be a lie if she learns [Create Golem] with our surplus DP. It'd probably be fine even if we made a crest-like notice that shouted something like: "We use golems at our inn~!"

"Still, this leisure time though..."

Ichika was complaining behind the counter, but it couldn't be helped that there weren't any guests.

... Hmm? Wait, come to think of it, there isn't really a need for someone to sit at the counter the whole time right?

Since Rokuko will know if someone comes into the dungeon's range, it's fine if she just comes when that happens...

Ah, but maybe that'd be no good after all if I'm sleeping.

—Oh, soon as I thought that, our first customers showed up.

A pair of men. I decided to close myself up into my room and observe them through the monitor.

... So they ordered C-Rank and D-Rank meals huh. The C-Rank one is [Steak Set (10 DP)] and the D-Rank one is [Beef Stew Set (6 DP)].

By the way, their flavors are about that of an average family restaurant's. If I consider 1 DP to be a hundred yen, well it's probably reasonable.

Well, honestly, selling them for five silver and one silver is pretty expensive. Since if I converted the silver into yen it'd be fifty

thousand yen and ten thousand yen you know? Ichika said it would be fine even if it was more expensive though.

Ah, that's why I added pudding to D-Rank and above. They were sold in sets of three like from the supermarket, [3-Piece Pudding (1 DP)].

Even the plastic material used as its container is valuable, they're excellent materials to recycle as materials for golems... Ah, when just two get ordered, wouldn't there be one left over? Wha—, Ichika, surely you aren't aiming for it...!?

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Well, apart from their meal, hot spring trip and the thing with the massage chair, it appeared that they were very satisfied with the futons. After taking a morning bath, they slowly headed into the dungeon as adventurers.

“Goshujin-sama~. As expected, it's no good if the beef isn't cooked with lots'a spices or the quality goes down huh?”

... It definitely can't be helped after seeing their reaction. Meanwhile, she ate the pudding in those few seconds. She's swooning with an unpleasant smile.

I wonder if D-Rank's should be [Ginger-Grilled Pork Special (5 DP)] next time. It's probably fine to keep E-Rank and below having [Side Bread] and [Buttered Bread]. Still, I can get three of [This Place's General Bread], which is hard and black, for 1 DP... Since the [Buttered Bread] is 1 DP for a sack of six of them, the black bread is more expensive. I don't get it.

“Looks like they accepted a dungeon investigation commission in Sia. They're C-Rank adventurers, the Uzoh Muzoh brothers.”

“They're adventurer brothers?”

“Nah, they aren't tied by blood y'know? They're just from the same village.”

Alright, let's just forget about what “brothers” is meant to mean.

So two customers like that stayed the night, we earned eight silver and one copper, and earned 125 DP. Since one silver was 10 DP when converted, even setting aside meals our earnings were 188 DP.

Still, for us to get 120 DP from those strong adventurers staying a night huh. I was surprised, but although they were at the same level as Ichika, it seems they were less skilled than her. [1]

I wonder why.

When I looked at the red circles that showed intruders on the map, I was able to see how much DP they would individually give me each day. I don't know when it started being able to do that but it seems its functions have increased... Come to think of it, I'm able to roughly see how much DP I'm obtaining from each area. I wonder if it's requirement was building an inn?

Checking it out, Uzoh was [61 DP] and Muzoh was [59 DP]. The two combined were 5 DP per hour.

But still, that would be the case if it was a complete day. One night is between six in the evening and eight in the morning, fourteen hours in all. It should've been just 70 DP. There's a huge 55 DP difference there between that and what we got.

Well, I decided to watch them on the map for a bit.

They were at the remains of the prison left by the bandits from a while back, only the bars remained.

As soon as Uzoh entered the jail, the daily DP income from him increased to [183 DP].

... It looks like the amount of DP income increases depending on place and condition. At the very least, let's verify [Threefold DP in the Prison] later. If Ichika's [65 DP] turns into [195 DP]... yep, Uzoh-kun and Muzoh-kun have brought me some great information. For that, let's splurge and give them a [Mana Potion (150 DP)].

Ah, by the way, Meat is [10 DP] per day, with Rokuko and I being [0 DP]. Well that's because we're dungeon master and core huh... Meat, did you grow up? Or maybe recover? You were staring death in the face before after all...

That aside, our income from the dungeon's earth vein now is just 90 DP? Oops, I shouldn't think of that as small... do your best, earth

vein.

And then the Uzoh Muzoh brothers descended to the first underground floor while trampling their way through goblins.

... Despite the traps being perfectly set at the start, they were making their way through unexpectedly safely. Maybe I should make them a bit harder?

Combat versus golems began on the underground floors.

They encountered clay golems that were summoned from spawners and roaming around a few times.

Those guys didn't even have a simple sword, so they weren't actually that strong since you just needed to hit them enough times. They were defeated pretty easily.

"... Incidentally, Golems die when they're cut in two right?"

"Askin' now even though Goshujin-sama already has a habit of usin' golems huh. Ya see, golems can't move if their magical power drains outa their body. Well, rather than dyin' it's more like they just can't move? Somethin' like that. The usual way to go about takin'em out is to hit 'em really hard or mess 'em up with magic. Ah, their weak point is havin' their magic stone taken out, like heart failure."

And so, Ichika taught me about the golems' weak points.

To tell the truth, I didn't understand them that well since there was no information about them other than how to [Make a Golem] inside of [Create Golem]. I guess making irregular golems was beyond that scroll's scope to begin with.

Impacts, magic, and the magic stone huh. I wonder if golems are unexpectedly weak? A clay golem is a third the cost of a lizardman (150 DP) after all... Ooh, it might be a good idea to dress them in armor.

An armor golem on a golem... ah, the heck, I just pictured an armored-type haniwa thing... y-yeah, I just thought of something strange. For the boss golem design, let's use a haniwa as a base. The meaning behind them is to protect peaceful sleep you know? Isn't that perfect? [2]

When I looked back at Uzoh and Muzoh, they'd entered the [Test Room].

Uzoh pulled out the magic sword blade golem from the pedestal. Oh. The amount of DP I get from them doubled as soon as the doorway closed... It doubled because they're closed in, I guess? Maybe it'd be a good idea to also given them a key for them to use and call the place a training area... no, if something like them sleeping in the hotel with the doors closed counted, their DP would've doubled then as well huh. I mean, what's causing it? I didn't think I'd need to solve a DP income riddle so suddenly!

However, looking at him bubbling over with happiness over holding a magic sword, he seems very pleased.

... Maybe I should... no way, there's no way I could... I definitely shouldn't.

*

Three days after the pair dove into the dungeon. In the meantime, although there were zero guests staying at the inn, we were getting 240 DP daily from the adventurers inside the dungeon (the Uzoh Muzoh brothers). Adding up Ichika and Meat, as well as the dungeon's basic income and so on, we were getting a total of 400 DP per day.

Even if I did nothing else, my daily wage would be forty thousand yen. Thirty times that for monthly salary, a crazy one million two hundred thousand yen. Silly income for a single person.

"... But why don't those guys leave the test room?"

"They're probably pleased with its coziness! As expected of my dungeon~"

Even though they could leave as soon as they stab the magic sword back into the pedestal... it doesn't look like they're going to leave at all. Why the heck do they want to stay inside so bad...

When I checked, they strolled around the room and beat the walls.

Oh—, he put a normal sword into the pedestal. Unfortunate, but wrong. Won't work.

“... Wait, perhaps they don't know how to leave...?”

“Oooh, now that you mention it they did seem like idiots~”

“I wouldn't want to be called that by Rokuko.”

I wonder if he was unconsciously avoiding the right answer and just didn't want to part with the magic sword?

... Now I'm recalling a story about an ape that tried to take some bait out of a hole with its hand but couldn't.

“... Well, let's just watch for a bit more. They'll leave sooner or later... the DP is great even if they don't leave.”

“Yeah. Wouldn't it be fine for us to just leave them in there?”

Above all, it's double DP when confined with a key and three times as much when imprisoned. I learned that it would increase by the huge factor of sixfold when imprisoned with Ichika's cooperation. However, it seems she was slowly tiring out when confined in the prison. I wonder if it's due to having DP wrung out of her?

... For now, so long as we're sure that doors are properly locked when people sleep, our income will increase.

*

Day five.

When staying a full ten days, we obtain the same amount of DP as though they were killed.

In other words, with Uzoh and Muzoh's doubled amount of income for us, we're now earning more DP than if we had just killed them on day one. Isn't it fine for the Uzoh Muzoh brothers to just keep staying with us? It'd be great DP if we just fed them and kept them as pets...

By the way, it seems there are human farms in some of the high-ranking dungeons. It was a technique of literally treating humans as livestock for cultivating DP... If it leaked out to humans, it'd instantly become the case of destroying the dungeon core on sight.

We can't possibly do that with a small scale dungeon like ours... To

keep it a secret we'd have to make deeper floors... no, the risk is too big. There's no way I could sleep peacefully with so much danger. Rejected, rejected.

Well, since we still weren't getting any other guests, I stayed lying down while watching Uzoh and Muzoh's actions. It looks like they were tired of waiting and tried to destroy the needles that were blocking the entrance.

"... That's a shame! Attacking a dungeon object with the blade golem is like attacking with a normal [Iron Sword]!"

"Who was that explanation for?"

Ah, usually there would be a monster opponent for them to fully savor its sharpness though. The boss? It's different from the boss. I'm planning on giving it the ability to disempower my dungeon's magic swords. I haven't made it yet though.

Well, they failed as I figured... is what I expected, but they broke one of the needles blocking them in. Looks like they gave up because two more came back though. For them to try using the magic sword on the test room's blockade... I made the walls and floor considerably strong so that they won't be destroyed. In other words, I used the mysterious dungeon power of making a [Puzzle Room that's Possible to Escape] by putting the key to escape inside.

... Eh, what?

The magic sword... broke?

Commission from the Guild

“... For now, want me to fix the needle trap? It’s just a little DP.”

“Yeah, please.”

I left Rokuko to repair the trap as I immersed myself in my thoughts. ... It probably broke during that first attack. When the blade golem broke, it went from being the important [Room Key] into a [Normal Iron Sword]. Then the mysterious dungeon power that made the needle traps strengthen dropped drastically because of them losing the ability to escape. They turned into [Objects that can be Destroyed], I guess.

Then they tried to forcibly break the iron needles with an iron sword, so the sword also cracked. That’s probably what happened.

“... I get the gist of it, but figuring this out is going to be annoying...”

“Mmm, what is?”

“Well, the blade golem is our featured product, but can it be used as a magic sword? Its performance seems questionable.”

If I think about this carefully and look at it from another direction, defending against attacks using a blade golem is the same thing as [Attacking] a golem in sword form.

So if the golem is injured, after that there’d be no difference between it and an ordinary [Iron Sword]. Even in the middle of combat.

... The blade golem’s weakness that’s been on my mind for a while now was this, huh?

Although it’s fine in my case because I can mend them, Meat and Ichika can’t. And since they’re serving as the vanguards in combat, their blade golems have a high chance of breaking.

... Looks like I’ll need to improve them somehow. Let’s think on it.

Ah, even if Uzoh and Muzoh put the magic sword they broke back into the pedestal, they won’t be able to manually release the blockade.

*

The next day, Uzoh and Muzoh still weren't able to escape the test room. Their DP is delicious.

Then I saw someone appear on the map. Wonder if it's a new guest?

"Owneer! There's a new gueeeest~"

"Hmm? Isn't she calling for Rokuko...?"

"Eh—, ah, r-right, I'm the owner! ... S-see y-you later!"

"Wait, you're going to go like that? ... Haah, can't be helped."

She was obviously overanxious so I decided to follow her.

Or maybe I should say that I temporarily revived my absolute command over Rokuko. [Calm down.][Smile next to me.][Nod if I say: "What now, Owner?"] [Shake your head if I say: "What do we do, Owner?"] [If it's anything else just nod and agree to the conversation.] I gave her those orders.

... It was to help cover up her anxiety, it couldn't be helped. I forced her to calm down despite having such a short amount time. After all, the order authority is too strong.

When we went and saw Ichika who called us, the usual Receptionist-san from the guild was there... with a gargantuan rucksack on her back.

I wonder if something's starting? Is she actually a pretty powerful person? She's carrying that like it's nothing.

... Her daily DP income is [80 DP], oi. The heck is this incredible person. Maybe she really is a big shot?

"This is the first time we've met, Owner-sama... Why is Kehma-sama here?"

"Well, I'm employed here. Please think of me as something similar to a secretary for now."

"I see... I'd like to talk with Owner-sama for a moment."

"What now, Owner?"

Rokuko nodded her head as commanded. Good, her movements are fine.

Well, here's Receptionist-san's story summed up:

- She was dispatched to make a guild branch office! The inn's front area was vacant, she would build it there!
- She had a tent but would rent things like the toilet for a while! Food too!
- Ah, the guild would pay money! It's the same amount as staying normally so it's fine!

Well, that was a bit frank but that's how it was.

It wasn't a problem for her to stay at the inn at all. If there was a problem it'd be that the branch office would be set up between the inn's front and the cave entrance, but I don't really have a way to refuse either... I still don't have anything using the land after all.

"Above all I'd like to receive your cooperation... By the way, how much is the cost of staying here?"

"... Fifty copper per night, meals are between a copper and a gold. Right now there isn't a discount for staying a long time though. What do we do, Owner? ... Ah, it's no use huh. We still haven't figured out the pricing for that yet."

Let's stick with the stance that you can only get that as a special thing.

"One gold coin is it? What kind of meal is it?"

"It's a meal suitable for receiving an A-Rank adventurer as a guest. Ah, the details are shown on the price listings here."

"... One copper coin for a G-Rank meal?"

"Since you usually need at least E-Rank to come to a normal dungeon, it's assumed to be used for slaves. It's just black bread... One above that is F-Rank for beginners, it's two loafs of white bread. E-Rank's is a bit of a novelty bread, an original of this inn. It's a daily special though... As for D-Rank, it's for adventurers who can earn a bit, white bread accompanied with a side dish. It even comes with dessert."

I pointed to them as I explained so that she could see the prices... I wonder if explaining C-Rank is unnecessary?

Receptionist-san closed her eyes for a moment before responding.

“Then I’d like to ask for an E-Rank meal.”

“Alright. Feel free to let us know if you change your mind at any point.”

“Fifty copper coins... it’s a considerable price.”

“It’s due to the cost of shipping into the mountains... right, Owner?”

“Yeah.”

“... Well, that can’t be helped. Roads don’t come this deep into the mountains after all.”

Alright, so one silver coin a day.

“Right, the guild wanted to give a nominated commission to Kehma-sama, would you like to hear about it?”

“Hmm, I’m employed here right now though... what now, Owner?”

Let’s hear about it for now.

“The other day, the guild put out a commission for this dungeon... to find a new name for the [Ordinary Cave], it put out an investigation commission for it... The adventurers haven’t returned.”

Ah, Uzoh and Muzoh huh. They’re sleeping in the test room right now you know?

“C-Rank adventurers are assumed to be accustomed to capturing dungeons and knowing when it’s time to quit... so when they aren’t able to return, the guild assumes the dungeon has a considerably high difficulty.”

“... Hmm, and so?”

“Even though Kehma-sama has experience in investigating this dungeon and returning alive we can’t issue an investigation commission to you... So, if those adventurers who haven’t returned are still alive, we would like you to rescue them... Well, the possibility of them still being alive is low though.”

They’re definitely still living you know!? Ah, I can’t just go and say that right now.

“If you accept this commission... we will recognize you as a C-Rank adventurer to capture the [Ordinary Cave]. The Guild Head approved

it.”

“Hoh, so only if I accept it, huh?”

It'd certainly be reckless for E-Ranks to enter if even C-Ranks were unable to make it back. So I guess it's fine for them to recognize me as C-Rank with the condition of me being able to return alive?

I don't have a reason to not accept it... Rather, we're E-Rank if we don't accept it, so there's no way I wouldn't.

“... The reward?”

“Investigation commissions are five silver coins, with additional rewards for useful information. As for things obtained in the dungeon, we don't mind what is done with them but would like to be shown them for a moment. In the case you are able to successfully rescue them, there will be an additional five silver coins reward from the guild. Please discuss the reward with those concerned.”

There's no way I wouldn't accept it, but it looks like I can expect a pretty good reward. Uzoh and Muzoh are still alive too.

I don't want the dungeon to be considered very difficult or nothing but strong adventurers will come here... besides, it'd be a bad omen if the inn's first customers died after all.

“... I want to accept the commission, but that depends on the inn. What now, Owner?”

I decided to accept the commission.

Rescue

Receptionist-san went outside to the tent that was currently acting as a temporary branch office.

I released Rokuko from the absolute commands and prepared to dive into the dungeon. By that, I obvious mean preparing just for show.

At any rate, I have a map too. I am the dungeon master after all.

“Well, will you rescue them?”

“I will. Otherwise I won’t be able to come and go from the dungeon as I want, it’s a good thing those small fries went in first...”

It doesn’t have enough fighting strength, so it would’ve been destroyed if some big shots suddenly showed up. The boss golem? I’ll make it little by little, a super armored haniwa.

Furthermore, Uzoh and Muzoh are still safe. It looks like they’ve already searched today and are taking a nap, so I’ll draw up plans for the super armored haniwa.

*

Well, it’s been ten days since Uzoh and Muzoh were confined. They haven’t been able to find a way out and have slowly stopped moving around as much. The DP we’re getting from them has lowered a bit because they’re weakening.

I brought Ichika with me into the dungeon.

Their stomachs were empty as well, so I brought some white bread as a present.

It was my dungeon, so it obviously didn’t take that long to reach the test room.

“... Oooi, I came to help! You guys there~?”

“Uu... what... a-a rescuer? W-we’re here, we’re in here! The two of us, we’re still alive, please help!”

Muzoh’s desperate voice came from the other side of the needle wall.

Well, I knew that from the map though. I also knew they were both alive because I could use the monitor.

“Well Ichika... how do you think we should open it?”

“... ... It’s ‘kay to break it?”

Yep, the needles blocking the way are very strong, but they’re going to open the moment I arrive. It’s somewhat amusing.

“Well I’m going to smash it open with magic... Alright, opening it noooow! Move away from the entraaance!”

“G-got it, we’re moving, please wait... ... We’ve moved, go for it!”

He called back out from inside the room. I checked the map to confirm that they moved away. After that, I remembered [Fireball] that I learned from the scroll from before.

... The chant for it is, “Flame, become a ball and pierce my enemy.”

... ... Such a language cheat—!

“Flame, become five balls and pierce my enemy—[Fireball].”

I noncommittally decided to make it five, but five fireballs really did appear and launch themselves at the needle wall.

Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! Bang! The fireballs hit the wall one after another... Yep, guess that much isn’t able to break the needle wall. I wonder if my magical power would be able to make a hundred or a thousand balls?

... Looks like I can still shoot more. Let’s change it up a bit on the next one.

“Flame, burst and... eeeh... explode for the time being, [Fireball].”

Fwoom. A ball of fire appeared and slowly moved to the wall.

Ah—crap. My magical power dropped a ton from that chant. It decreased so much that I’m feeling cold.

“Goshujin-sama, I think this’s dangerous. We should move away a bit yah?”

“Y-yeah.”

I moved a bit away being pulled by Ichika and we waited for the ball of fire to hit the needle wall.

Kaboom! The moment it collided, an explosive sound blasted through the air as white light engulfed us.

However, the needle wall was alive and kicking.

... .. O-okay, it didn’t break! As expected of the needle wall, that wasn’t dangerous to it... rather, it actually would’ve been pretty strange if fireballs did anything to the iron. Dangit, thought I’d be able to do something to it.

“... Can’t be helped I guess, I’ll just directly tamper with it so that it can be broken.”

I should’ve just done this from the start. I used [Create Golem] on the needle wall, easily making some cracks... It was already filled with my magical power before I even intentionally tried. I wonder if it’s because it’s a trap in my dungeon? Well, it was easy to alter.

... But I’m already tired from that [Fireball] from a bit ago. Let’s leave the grand demolishing to Ichika.

“Ichika, I made it fragile so do it showy.”

“Nn, got it. Leave it to me~”

Ichika stood in front of the needle wall and brandished her carving knife golem... There’s a water golem hidden in the center to absorb impacts and is made even more impact resistant by the three-layer structure of iron that covers the exterior of the sword. Its magic resistance has been improved (I think) as well, an experimental type blade golem. If it works let’s name it the second generation.

“... Slash! ... ish?”

Ichika attacked the wall with movements like she was using [Slash] while avoiding pincushioning herself on the needles with nimble movements. The needles were destroyed.

The needles that broke were thrown inside very showily as they

made loud ringing sounds.

... Uzoh and Muzoh didn't die from that right? They're safe right?

A fake slash huh. Though she normally had assistance by the [Slash] skill, it was being reproduced by the maid clothes golem's assist function. Since it wasn't a skill, it might be lot weaker... It looks like you can memorize skills even if you don't use a scroll, but you can't learn the real [Slash] and use a fake slash huh. I need to experiment on that.

"Y-you saved us... Oi, Uzoh, we're getting rescued!"

"Yeah..."

Hmm, he couldn't stand properly on his feet by himself.

Ichika and I went into the test room. Then, the needle wall began to quietly restore itself.

"O-oi! Wait! Don't come in!"

"Hmm? Why... oops."

The needle wall restored itself behind Ichika and I, locking us in like a beast's mouth.

Seeing that, Muzoh's face looked like it had drained of hope.

"A-aah... shit, why..."

"Oi oi, this is a [Safety Zone] right? Why are you panicking so much?"

"We couldn't destroy that trap even though we used a magic sword on it. It was no good... from the inside, it's resistant to attacks to the point of being bizarre..."

Though I already know about what happened, I'll pretend to be surprised for now.

"Oi oi, hold up. What happened to the magic sword?"

"... Uzoh."

"Here. This thing cracked."

I accepted the magic sword and took a look at it... Yep, it definitely broke. It wasn't a golem anymore, just a ordinary [Broken Iron Sword]. Rather, it did well being able to break one of the needle trap's needles.

“... Looks like it can't be used. It can't be helped, guess I'll use my magic sword... Ichika, give them the bread we brought.”

“Ye~s, Goshujin-sama... Here ya go~?”

Ichika took out the bread and gave them each a share of it.

We brought plenty enough to eat so make sure you eat properly!

“... T-thanks. Right, did he say Ichika just now...? O-oi, Uzoh. This bread, it's white. It's the bread we ate at the hotel!”

“... .. Are you an angel?”

While Ichika was handing out the bread, I took the chance to approach the pedestal. I first tried inserting the broken blade golem.

... Yep, no reaction after all. Looks like the pedestal doesn't recognize the blade golem in its current state.

While I snickered inwardly at being able to take in some valuable data, I inserted the blade golem I brought just now into the pedestal.

Then the needle wall made a sound of metal sliding across metal as it perfectly withdrew itself.

“... Huh? W-what did you do?”

“You can't leave this room without inserting the magic sword back into the pedestal... Moreover, I used the magic sword I brought since the broken magic sword didn't work.”

“Magic sword!? I-I see, so it was like that from the start... dammit...”

Muzoh was getting seriously depressed. Let's make it so that even a more or less broken magic sword will open it if it gets stabbed back into the pedestal. Well, let's continue with some devilish words.

“You need to reimburse me properly you know? One magic sword.”

... Right, everything up to here has been an act for these words! She said it: “Please discuss the reward with those concerned.” Since it was a rescue commission, I used the strategy of sacrificing a magic sword to draw out a lot more money.

How's that, dreadful isn't it...!? Tremble in fear as you live the rest of your life in debt!

“... Yeah, sorry, you had to use your valuable magic sword...”

“Definitely. You helped to the point where you lost your magic sword, we will pay you back.”

H-huh? What’s with that mutual agreement, oi.

“It was a magic sword you know? It’s pretty expensive you know?”

“... We’ll definitely repay you even though it’ll probably take some time to pay back. I wonder if the guild would help?”

“I-I want a new magic sword if possible...”

“Got it. In two years, no, we’ll somehow do it in one year... We’ve lost a bit of confidence from this, but we’re still C-Rank adventurers, we’ll manage it somehow.”

These guys are crazy obedient.

“... Ah, how much is your rescue fee? If possible, we’d appreciate it if you left us behind with enough money to take on another commission.”

Eh, they want to pay me even more? What is this deliciousness... Though, I’ve already demanded a magic sword, demanding too much is just cruel. Alright, let’s overcharge for now and lower it to see their reaction.

“Eh, ah, ummm, let’s seeeee... t-two gold coins, I guess?”

“...—T-that’s!”

Ah, sorry. I guess one gold coin per person is too much after all? Alright, let’s cut the price down now! I want to get as much as possible out of them, though!

“Isn’t it great that’s so little!? We’re saved!”

“Yeah, with Muzoh and I that makes four gold huh? We’ll pay it when we return to Sia.”

... .. Eeeeeeh?

Haku-san's Visit

I entirely forgot to ask Ichika about the rescue fee beforehand.

Being asked by Muzoh to please help him in that situation, let alone all of their money and possessions or something, it seems they couldn't complain even if I demanded half of their selling price as a slave.

They'd be left in a pretty hopeless spot if I did that though, so it was good manners to leave them with something...

But the market price for a C-Rank is around four gold each.

"As expected of Goshujin-sama, yer ability to see through people is amazin'. Now they'll owe you a magic sword in the future, so you left 'em with some funds to get it. When ya add in the magic sword, isn't it pretty delicious? Weeell, they'll also owe ya a favor, profitable profit!"

Well let's just take it as something good.

Still, I didn't even have to return to Sia. I was able to receive the money from the adventurer guild's branch office... Four gold coins. Delicious indeed. Those guys said something like they were going to use their savings on the A-Rank meal. Three of the gold coins were Uzoh's though.

... It'd be 4,000 DP if I converted it into DP. Nah, it'll be fine to use it as is. Maybe I should get another employee (slave)?

Uzoh and Muzoh spent another night at the hotel, this time they both enthusiastically ate C-Rank meals. They also treated Ichika and me. As well as Meat, who was my party member, while they were at it... I could've wrung more money out of them... Well, it's fine I guess.

Right now our C-Rank meal is a special one for our opening, the [Steak Meal]. They heard from Ichika that it'll be our B-Rank meal after this, so they couldn't eat it as casually as they were doing just before and now ate it with sad and complicated expressions.

The next day, after reporting the commission to the adventurer's guild branch office, they left smiling and waving.

This time, when I put together the income we were able to get from Uzoh and Muzoh, we got 2,650 DP, four gold coins, twenty-nine silver coins, and five copper coins. There was probably a margin of error when working with small amounts of DP from the dungeon, but it's fine.

... This is worth 4,290,500 yen. Woah, it's a good thing I didn't kill them! I wouldn't have been able to get their savings if I did. Getting a new magic sword is much more delicious.

Then there was the investigation and rescue commissions from the guild... Though even if it was an investigation commission, I didn't have to give them any essential information. Adventurers like me don't go so far as [Lying] to gain an advantage, but it seems concealing some information is standard... Well, there are magic tools that can see through lies, so yeah.

The information I gave: [Goblins at the start, golems appearing after descending the stairs][Uzoh and Muzoh were on the floor immediately after the stairs][Once the trap is sprung, it doesn't seem you can leave]. As well as the stuff Uzoh and Muzoh will report.

Incidentally, the method to release the trap... [Return the magic sword to the pedestal], telling them that information netted me an additional ten silver reward. Along with the original five, Uzoh and Muzoh seem to have asked, "This is their information, so please add it to theirs."... They're some pretty upright fellows.

After that, I drew and gave them a map of the area around the entrance and of the first floor. They bought it for eight silver. They paid quite a bit for it... they'll probably have an easier time investigating now.

A total of twenty-eight silver good. A good haul. Receptionist-san's five days of stay amounted to around 600 DP and five silver coins.

With this our surplus DP has risen quite a bit huh... Our remaining DP is... 19,532. It hasn't went over 20,000 yet because I'm using it to pierce a tunnel through the Tsuia Mountain. I'm taking control of the drilling from time to time.

... Hmm, we can probably afford a few expenses for a while if our DP's like this, so we're probably fine. I could convert the gold coin at any time, but let's reserve it for now.

“Isn’t it so delicious that we got so much income right at the start? ... It was a bonus, but in just eleven days’ income we could make three hundred and fifty goblins.”

“... That’s amazing! But why did you convert it to goblins? Mmm...”

Eh, isn’t Rokuko just too easy to get? She was smiling sweetly.

“Well.. you’re easy to understand but... you shouldn’t be so happy with that!”

I patted Rokuko’s head.

Investigation commissions are used to measure the difficulty of a dungeon before it is opened to general adventurers.

The results were that C-Rank and E-Rank adventurers were able to return safely, so I wonder if I didn’t set the difficulty too high? It’d be good if the dungeon becomes popular for low-level adventurers since our DP income would stabilize... and I wouldn’t have to worry about being able to defend the dungeon.

... Most of all, even if the dungeon core is set up inside the dungeon, if adventurers ever make it to the final floor it’ll be fine if I just use casting on the dummy core in my room, so I can sleep peacefully.

Dungeon investigations? Yep, do as you like. It’s fine, since there’s nothing there even if you go inside. You’ll just feel tired from the stress.

... Ahhh, maybe I should remodel the dungeon if we get more DP~?

*

Several days later, the dungeon’s new name was finally decided on.

It’s new name: [Cave of Desires].

You’ll probably die if you lose to your desires, at least, that’s why they gave it that name. Even though I’d prefer it if they weren’t so vigilant and just relax their guard...

It’s requirement was E-Rank. Classified as an ordinary low class dungeon. Well, it seems that when I saved the C-Rank adventurers

Uzoh and Muzoh, I announced the method to escape.

“Congratulations Rokuko-chan. You were given a name suitable for Rokuko-chan’s charm.”

“Thank you so much, Haku Ane-sama!”

Haku-san was the first one to arrive with the news. She was gently caressing Rokuko’s head.

Chloe-san was standing behind them off to the side a little, wearing the same butler clothing as usual.

“... So, why are you here, Haku-san?”

“I heard that your dungeon was made public, so I came to be the first to stay here you know? I rushed over to be Rokuko-chan’s inn’s first guest.”

“Sorry, but Haku-san is the fourth.”

“What did you say...!? ... Three people have already stayed here? I won’t be the first one then?”

“Please stop, you can use our number one room. Please pardon us, you’ll be our suite room’s first guest.”

The suite room... that is, it’s a room I just made to entertain A-Rank adventurers for now.

The bedding in the suite is elaborate. It was a higher rank of the [Futon (5 DP)], the [Foam Mat (200 DP)]. I combined it with a wooden frame I made myself with some high class sculptures on it, turning it into a bed that overflowed with the feeling of luxury. Additionally, it has a [Duvet (100 DP)]. It’s just amazing, I can’t help but praise myself.

I added some other pointless furniture for relief, like a light magic tool that looked like a candlestick. There’s even a curtain that covers a window I made with the potion bottles’ glass. It’s pretty great.

Moreover, there is a bath and restroom attached to the room. They were private stalls, not like an all-in-one you know?

The bath was made of cypress wood, bringing about a luxurious feeling from the style of it... probably.

It also had a massage chair in the room. You could easily fall asleep in it after a bath with the included [Towel Blanket (5 DP)]. [\[1\]](#)

You could even press a button to have a meal brought to you so that you didn't have to come down to the dining room to eat, our service is impeccable.

... I only made this so that we could say our inn can entertain A-Rank adventurers, but only Haku-san is going to use it!

By the way, it's fifty copper coins to stay the night in a normal room. Since meals have been set to cost quite a sum of money, the specially rated suite isn't my room. After all, with its cost people would be like, "How the heck's an E-Rank adventurer staying there...!?" It's different if it's just my reputation falling, but I'd like to avoid suspicion. Dang it, I wouldn't have to worry so much if they didn't make that guild branch office, I would've stayed in the suite whenever there weren't any guests...!

"So, how much will it be? I don't count as a first customer that wouldn't need to pay money, so I assume I'll pay properly?"

There's no such rule as that!

"... Aah, we haven't decided on the fee for the suite yet..."

"That room's the best. I also helped making its interior you know... Haku Ane-sama, how much do you think would be good for a night's stay?"

"Oh my, I wonder? I'm looking forward to it. Hmm, then I'll pay a fair price when I leave."

I'm thankful for that. Unfortunately, I don't know what price would be fair since I haven't stayed at a high class hotel.

"Oh yeah, we prepare A-Rank meals. The [Setting] is that Haku-san delivers ingredients to Rokuko with [Storage], so we look forward to working with you."

"I understand. Ah, of course, it will be another world's cuisine right? Here, this is two gold coins for Chloe's portion as well. I'm looking forward to it."

It would've been fine without that though... well, it's fine. Accept what you can accept. Paying in gold coins... I wonder how I should say it? This person's values are off. Well, they're probably off by two

orders of magnitude.

... Still, it's a bit late to say it but I can't see the A-Rank menu we arranged to be worth a million yen at all.

Maybe I should change the menu to a three course Chinese meal or a French styled full course after all?

Inn, Suite Room 1 - (Haku's Point of View)

[Cave of Desires] was Rokuko-chan's dungeon's new name. It was decided on when Sia's adventurer guild confirmed the information in the report. But still, she was already found... no, she did it voluntarily.

Well, in addition to that, the report also said that there was an inn. I thought that making the [Inn (400,000 DP~)] would take more time and certainly not be announced simultaneously with the dungeon... I wonder what in the world they did for income? A human farm? Hmm, it's too early for that. Maybe they excavated some orichalcum?

And so, I used [Teleport] as soon as I could to be Rokuko-chan's inn's [First Customer].

*

Unfortunately, although I missed the chance to have the honor of being her [First Customer], I decided to stay in the suite. Incidentally, I was given the important duty of assessing a fair price for it. Fufufu, many inns have been built in the imperial capital. Furthermore, to say nothing of the top class inns' suites I've stayed in around the kingdom for my duties, I've also stayed in various inns as an adventurer. There probably isn't anyone more suited to this than me.

"Now then, I wonder if I can get a hot bath without needing to wait?"

Though you could perfectly clean your body with Cleanup, it feels great when you wipe your body clean with a cloth dampened in hot water. Although such a service can't be expected in a cheap hotel

meant for low rank adventurers, but something that calls itself a suite room should be able to.

“... Ahh, um, sorry.”

“Oh my. I can’t?”

A demerit right away then? Good grief, if you don’t properly improve your service, it’ll be hard to call this a suite...

“There is a bath in the room if you want hot water, so please use that. Use it as much as you like.”

“... Huh? ... A-as much as I want?”

“There is a mechanism with levers coming out of it attached to the bath for that.”

... Did the [Inn] have a room with that function? Maybe there was an option to enhance it... If it’s just the suite, the expenditure would be lowered. As expected of Rokuko-chan’s master.

“Yeah, other than the suite, you can enter the hot spring as much as you want.”

“... There’s even a hot spring?”

“It’s our main attraction.”

A [Hot Spring] would cost DP separate from an [Inn]... I wonder how much they spent? I don’t consider it that expensive, but it seems they’ve splurged.

... If I recall, a normal room is fifty copper coins. As for entering the hot spring as much as you want, I wonder if most of the costs went towards that? I wonder if I should have stayed in a normal room?

“So then Haku Ane-sama, I’ll show you to your room!”

Rokuko-chan led me to the suite room... This service is worth the one gold coin... oops, I shouldn’t allow my opinion to affect the reasonable price.

Rokuko-chan stood in front of the room she took me to... Hmm, it’s not a normal wooden door, but surrounded by iron plating? It’s also has a lock.

I wonder if it was broken at one point and they replaced it with a dungeon door? That’s probably it.

“Here it is! Take your time, Ane-sama!”

When I opened the door, it was bright inside. The sun was shining.
... There was fantastically carved wooden furniture, as well as a bed. There was also what looked to be a comfortable chair to sit in. Hmm, what country is this engraving style from...? Perhaps from another world?

There was a clock on the wall. Having a clock was convenient, it was a particularly expensive magic tool. There is a bell that rings in the town, but there's no way you could hear it out here.

And the window where the light was shining through... is that a sheet of crystal inserted into it? It looks like you can even shut out the light by shutting the cloth next to it.

Indeed, in this case this suite might just pass.

Oh, there's also a restroom with a bath in it isn't there? I almost forgot about it.

... Let's give it a look. The bath was made of some kind of wood. However, there was no hot water in it... Ah, these are the levers? There's an explanation written.

I see, so this one is hot water, this one for water... When I tried it out to experiment, hot water came out into the bath... Isn't this a little hot? Ah, you can turn on the water one as well.

“Chloe, what do you think?”

“Isn't this room wonderful? It's even better than the kingdom's hotel's suites.”

Even I didn't expect this much.

For now, let's sit down on the chair.

“... This chair is very comfortable, it feels great.”

“Haku-sama, it says this chair is a magic tool called a [Massage Chair]... It seems that it will massage you when you place a copper coin into it.”

“Hmm? Try putting one in.”

When Chloe put a copper coin into it, the chair began to vibrate.

“Wha-wh-wh-wh-wha-what the heck is this—!? Faaah—!”

“Haku-sama!? A-are you alright!?”

“I-I’m fine, ah, this, amazi... fuah... feels so goood—...”

Ahh... I think I could fall asleep just like this... I’ve been working hard recently so that I could come to this inn... ahhh...

*

When I woke up, Chloe put the cloth that was next to the chair on me... Hmm, this chair feels very good. Even though it’s light and isn’t that thick, it feels warm.

“... This chair, I wonder if they won’t finance it. Around ten gold coins...”

“I haven’t seen a magic tool like this before. It might be particularly valuable, troublesome...”

“... I wonder if fifty wouldn’t be enough then?”

“It sounds like you liked it quite a lot?”

“Yeah, it’s very good... ah, I slept through meal time. I wonder if it’s fine now? If I remember right, they said it’d be brought if I pressed the button in this room.”

... There is a button on the wall with a cover over it so that it wouldn’t be pressed on accident. The cover is unexpectedly made of crystal, isn’t it... it doesn’t look like there’s anything holding it together, I wonder how it was made? Was it made just for this?

At any rate, I pressed the button. For a moment, it sounded like metal was striking against something.

What kind of mechanism is this...? Did an [Inn] even have this kind of option?

After a while, well, after three minutes, there was a knock at the door.

... They prepared the food quickly. Perhaps, did they use DP for it?

“Haku Ane-sama, I brought your meal!”

“Please enter Rokuko-chan!”

When I opened the door, Rokuko-chan was pulling a rack with

dishes on it.

There were three dishes on the serving rack. They were covered with a metal covering so I couldn't see what their contents were... So they're properly using covers, this is also a high level thing... Our country's suite bring meals bare.

Oh my, I wonder what's in these square containers? Ah, there seems to be drinks inside as well. There is a spoon and a straw attached to it.

... Wait, crystal glasses? To freely use it for that... because of that, I can see what's inside it, let's see... green? There's something white floating halfway up it... could it be a potion and potato mix? That's somehow an amazing combination...

"Ah, oh my. Three?"

"I-I wanted to eat together with Haku Ane-sama... can't I?"

"You definitely can! Rokuko-chan, leave it to Chloe. Sit, sit."

"M-mm, I can't. Chloe is also a customer today."

Rokuko-chan diligently laid out the dishes on the table.

Drops of water were appearing outside the glass... Probably from using ice magic. It looks fairly cold...

"Well then, let's go~. Yeah~, ta-da~!"

When Rokuko-chan removed the cover, there were several things on each platter.

"... Putting compartments in the platter to serve multiple things per dish... a novel idea."

"Fufufu, isn't it amazing? Let's see, these are [Hamburgers], this is [Naporitan], and these are [Fried Prawns]! These long narrow things are [French Fries], this thing with a flag in it is an [Omelet with Rice Filling]! The soup is [Corn Portage]. Ah, right right. This green drink is called [Ice Cream Soda]! It's a drink, but it's also a dessert, the white stuff on the top is a delicious cold food called [Vanilla Ice Cream]! Try and drink it before it melts okay?" [\[1\]](#)

Hearing Rokuko-chan's explanation, I immediately readied my fork. [Hamburger], un, it's meat. It's not a steak, but it's a meat dish. Moreover, it's beef? There's even a superb mushroom sauce over it. [Naporitan], it's a pasta. It looks like there's tomato sauce on it? It

leaves a distinct sensation on your tongue.

[Fried Prawns]... I wonder if this is sea food? Just how did they cook this? A dish from another world...

[French Fries], they're obviously potatoes. I think... Mm, the crispiness feels great. It feels the same as the [Fried Prawns]. Potatoes are easily obtainable, so it could be cooked so long as you knew the method to cook it.

[Omelet Filled with Rice] seems to be eaten with a spoon. Some tiny grains spilled out of it covered with tomato sauce and eggs... corn? Hmm, it's not bad. But what's the flag for?

[Corn Portage] is sweet and warm, the flavor is relieving. It's the high point.

"The salad is also pretty good... Ah, but this [Mayonnaise] is quite a thing."

"We don't need to eat to begin with so we don't need to forcibly eat... Ah, Chloe is eating it?"

"Yes, Haku-sama. Hooh, [Mayonnaise], this is... can I have yours if you don't want it?"

"... I didn't say that I wouldn't eat it you know?"

... Hohoh, [Mayonnaise] is wonderful. Its taste harmonizes when eaten with vegetables, so that's the condition? ... Chloe seems to have liked it too, I wonder if I could get some of this?

However, even if you purchased these dishes with DP, you still need to arrange each food after getting them. It could be called time consuming, but it is much easier than starting from nothing and needing to make it from scratch. My assessment for it this time is that it's not appropriate to score it as a dish made by DP. In that case, considering the time needed for each dish... un, it's probably already worth a gold coin. I don't even have a rough idea of how much time is needed for another world's cuisine in the first place though.

"The stuff left in the corner is [Pudding]! It's a very tasty dessert with a cherry and cream decorating it!"

"Hmm, this is also a dessert...? Come to think of it, cream is a luxury good that is occasionally made at the imperial capital's farms. The cherry... I wonder where it's produced?"

“Wakoke I think?”

Wakoke? That’s far to the east... To reproduce it, there would be quite a shipping expense... Yeah, so an A-Rank adventurer like myself is directly delivering the ingredient through goodwill, that’s the [Setting]. Things’ time stop in [Storage] after all.

But it feels like a gold coin might be cheap after taking that into account.

Ah, this [Pudding] is delicious. It’s so sweet and bouncy, like it’s trying to melt in your mouth... ah—, that was dangerous. I almost forgot myself.

... And then there’s the [Ice Cream Soda]. I unintentionally kept it at a distance because of its potion-like green tint, but Rokuko-chan recommended it, so I have no choice but to drink it.

It’s a drink that combines [Melon Soda] and [Vanilla Ice Cream] to become a dessert... is what I was told, but what in the world is this thing? Oh, there’s a cherry on this too.

First I’ll try drinking the [Melon Soda] with the straw, itadakimasu... —!?

...—Sweet! And there’s a tingling sensation inside my mouth! And it’s so sweet! What kind of violent beverage is this!?

The drink has that tingling sensation like some kind of sake. But since it’s cold it feels a lot stronger. And then there’s the melon flavor that wafts into your nose, and it’s so sweet. This [Melon Soda] hits with quite a punch!

“Please try to eat the [Vanilla Ice Cream] that’s on top too, Haku Ane-sama. It’s started to melt a little, but it tastes the best you know?”

“O-okay...”

Using the long and slender spoon that seems to have been added exclusively for this glass, I scooped up a little of the [Vanilla Ice Cream].

When it entered my mouth, it felt very cold. Then, I tasted a sweetness that exceeded the [Melon Soda].

However, it tenderized like it was fresh snow because of the heat of my mouth, spreading out as it melted.

After the [Vanilla Ice Cream] melted, its sweet savoriness spread through my mouth. The dairy texture felt amazing...

“Ane-sama, did it suit your tastes?”

“... Yeah, very much so.”

The motion of the [Melon Soda], the stillness of the [Vanilla Ice Cream]... a drink with opposite extremes, no, this dessert, I was toyed with by it.

In the end, the melted [Vanilla Ice Cream] and [Melon Soda] mixed together... it feels like I caught a glimpse at the truth of this world.

A gold coin for these? Too cheap.

Inn, Suite Room 2 - (Haku's Point of View)

I sighed in admiration.

"Truly... that was satisfying."

"Fufufu, I'm honored to hear that from Haku Ane-sama! My inn's A-Rank dinner is my pride."

Hmm, with those contents, calling it simply an A-Rank dinner feels a bit insipid.

"Rokuko-chan. That collection of dishes, is there a name for it? It would be sacrilegious to just call it an A-Rank dinner with those contents."

"... [Stu—]... No, that's not it... umm, it's the [Avarice Meal]!"

It answers the desire of [I want to eat a lot of delicious food], so that's it?

To give a larger sense of satisfaction, it gives a great diversity in small amounts. What a wonderful naming sense.

"[Avarice Meal] is it? Quite a good name to go with [Cave of Desires]."

"Right? Oh, Haku Ane-sama. Is it fine if I take your flag. I'm collecting them."

"Oh my, it's fine with me. Here."

I took out the small flag that had been placed in the [Omelet Filled with Rice] and passed it to Rokuko-chan. Taking the opportunity, Chloe's as well. When I took a closer look at it, the pattern on it was different.

I didn't understand what they were for when I was eating, but I see now. They're collectibles huh? To go so far as stimulate the desire for collecting things, incredible.

"So Haku Ane-sama, have you entered the hot spring? It feels

ama~zingly good!”

“I haven’t given it a try yet... Right, it’s been a while since I’ve been in a hot spring. There’s a bath in the castle, though.”

“... There’s a bath where Haku Ane-sama lives!? Amazing~!”

“Oh my, but isn’t there a hot spring here? We’re the same then.”

“Ah, that’s right! Fufufu, I’m the same as Haku Ane-sama~”

Rokuko-chan looked delighted as she smiled cheerfully. Just seeing her melted my heart.

“Want to enter the hot spring with me? Haku Ane-sama.”

“Oh my, that sounds good.”

A hot spring... hmm, good, really good.

Although having a personal bath in your room is also good, having a large bath to go together with Rokuko-chan is better after all.

We just finished eating, but we decided to head there immediately.

“I’ve even used the indoor bath made by the hero, so I’ll teach you the proper way of using an indoor bath.”

“The proper way! I’m looking forward to it!”

*

It was a splendid bath.

“... You really don’t wear bath clothes in an indoor bath?”

“Oh my Rokuko-chan, are you getting dizzy? Your face is turning red?”

Still, bathing wear is worn in the public bath in the imperial capital.

But this is a hot spring, a bath made by Kehma-san, a person from another world. It’s probably correct to conform with the other world’s manners... I was able to see something wonderful.

However, there was another person there and we weren’t able to be alone. It would’ve been just the two of us if that human didn’t exist... yeah, I’ll just reserve it next time, fufufu. I’ll enjoy myself next time I

come.

“So then let’s get some sleep... Does Rokuko-chan want to come with us?”

“Ye~s.”

Come to think of it, we haven’t slept together up till now.

Though dungeon cores don’t need to sleep to begin with. We only have a pseudo-human metabolism... It does speed up recovery from fatigue, though.

When we went back to our room, Chloe was already laying in her.

... What is this child doing. To go to sleep and leave her master alone... moreover, still wearing her butler clothing.

“Chloe?”

“...Ha—!? H-Haku-sama...—!”

With a single word, she suddenly jumped out of the bed and onto the floor into a [Seiza].

... That pose (seiza) is a time-honored method of apology handed down, the first step to a [Dogeza].

“... Well, it’s fine, sleep is necessary for you.”

“Please forgive my rudeness...!”

However, it’s fairly unusual for Chloe to make a blunder. I wonder what caused it?

“... In truth, I decided to check to see how good the bed Haku-sama would be sleeping in was, but... it’s a wondrous sensation and before I noticed it, I...”

“Hmm... it seems to be enchanted.”

If it’s the cause of a magic tool or something... I don’t want to think about Chloe, a succubus, succumbing to a charm though. Succubi are specialists in charm and so advanced in it they shouldn’t be effected by them.

“Chloe, feel free to continue sleeping on that one. There is another bed after all.”

“Yes—, thank you.”

“Heeeh, that’s unusual. It’s the first time I’ve seen Chloe like that.

Well, the beds certainly do feel good though.”

Rokuko-chan clapped the bed Chloe was resting on just now with her hand.

... Despite how strong it looks like she’s hitting it, the sound is soft isn’t it?

I also slowly touched the bed.

... Gently, my finger... sank...?

What is this? Cotton... no, it’s not?

I pressed my palm into it without thinking. It was soft, and yet elastic... oops, I almost fell into the trance as well. I moved away from the bed for a moment to look at it.

It was decorated with some tasteful engravings, it seemed to also have worth as a work of art. Just by being a design from another world, it’s probably worth around fifty silver. I myself kind of want it if that’s about the price.

But still, with this thin cover to sleep under, wouldn’t you get cold?

... Oh my. It’s warm... the temperature from Chloe, who slipped out of it, still remains.

Contrary to how thin and light it is, it has excellent heat insulation.

Hmm, I could see why Chloe would lose herself in this. It’s in a succubi’s nature to be particular about their bedding.

“Haku Ane-sama, it’d be too hot to sleep with two people under this cover, so here’s a [Towel Blanket] to use.”

Saying that, Rokuko-chan brought the cloth that felt good from over by the [Massage Chair].

... I could get used to this. Perhaps Kehma-san... doesn’t want to start a fight?

“Ane-sama, here, here~”

Stepping into bed before me, Rokuko-chan opened a place for me to lay and pat it... I felt an indescribable happiness that couldn’t be expressed in words. Comfortable feelings arose in my body that caused me to tremble.

I entered the bed as Rokuko-chan invited me to, and like close sisters—in truth, we really are sisters with good relations, at least I think so—and cuddled. This will be an unprecedented happy sleep. The bed felt amazing, but honestly laying down together with Rokuko-chan was the most important part.

Dungeon cores do not require sleep. However, I haven't had the ability to sleep together with Rokuko-chan until now.

Despite making it so that god's vanguard wouldn't find her, for her to live a life like this... Well, what I want to say... Kehma-san has my gratitude, maybe. Well, for now.

I will absolutely never forgive you if you make Rokuko-chan sad, you know?

For sleep like this, even one hundred gold coins wouldn't be enough... w-well, this is different than the lodging expense assessment, so many I should give a tip as a special? Maybe I should directly pass Rokuko-chan some DP to have some pocket money.

One Night of the Suite: Results

“Twenty-five gold coins.”

In the morning, Haku-san took out a pouch filled with gold coins and sat it down with a thud.

... Huh?

“This is the worth of one night’s stay in the suite. Twenty-five gold coins per night per person, fifty coins for two.”

... One copper is one hundred yen. One hundred of those is a silver coin, ten thousand yen.

One hundred silver coins to make a gold coin, one million yen each.

Fifty gold coins.

Fifty million yen.

Certainly, having Rokuko act as their waiter would have increased the value a little bit, as well as induce them to enter the hot spring together, but that shouldn’t make the price fifty million yen for a night. However, Haku-san put another thirteen gold coins on the counter.

“And this is for the meal... it was one gold... but that is too cheap. I know your situation, but with those contents you could even normally take ten gold. At the lowest you should take at least five gold for it. The difference is Rokuko-chan’s portion.”

... Five million yen for a single meal!?

[DX Kid’s Meal (10 DP)] and [Cream Soda (8 DP)] for five million yen... that’s some extreme inflation. Rather, no matter how I calculate it our net profit is over 99%...

Well, even though I want to get as much as possible, I don’t want to get something I don’t deserve.

Even though I added in the DX level to the [Kid’s Meal] for peace of mind since Haku-san was eating it, this price... If I recall correctly, Ichika also said it would be fine if it was priced at five gold, but to sell something worth a thousand yen in Japan for five million yen...

it's really bad for my heart.

I'm just a lower class citizen. Not someone that would rip you off.

"There's no way I could accept that much..."

"Do you not trust my assessment?"

"That's not it! It isn't absurd either, I'll gratefully accept it!"

Feeling enough bloodthirst that my spine felt like it was freezing, I straightened myself in a salute and agreed.

If Haku-san, who was at the top of empire, said it was twenty-five gold coins per night, then that would become the correct value even if it was unjustified. If that's not the value beforehand, that's what it'll be after.

... This isn't something to joke about. If someone doesn't know the price of a good, the money that people pay to buy it becomes the actual value. If someone with the title [Empire's Top] or [A-Rank Adventurer] says that's the value, other people can only say, "Oh I see, so that was the value." That tendency was especially strong for works of art.

Since I asked Haku-san to evaluate the price this time, it should be fine if I just say that Haku-san guarantees its worth. In other words, [Twenty-Five Gold Coins Per Night] and [Five Gold Coins Per Meal] were correct cost assessments decided by Haku-san. To make it any cheaper would be to distrust Haku-san... you could say it would be like me provoking her.

"... Since you don't agree, I will tell you how I came to this result."

"Ah, s-sorry..."

"For the first reason, even though the price you could set the prices to go along with the amount of DP used, for things like transportation costs and technological expenses... it feels as though that would omit every cost related to labor."

For example, the cherry from that country to the far east. It was a fruit that could only be found in Wokoke, it would cost fifty silver coins to eat a single one in Sia. Because it rots quickly, the time-space magic [Storage] is needed to eat it fresh... [Storage] is more or less only held by A-Ranks, making it an A-Rank [Envoy Commission]. From what I'm told, at cheapest those are five gold for

a single trip.

Looking at it that way, you need to add that into the cost of buying a cherry. That's why they cost fifty silver each... I see.

I definitely didn't think about it like that.

... Oh yeah, even if you could get some bread for around one hundred yen in Japan, when you take into account the transportation and labor costs, the price was only able to get down to one hundred yen after mass producing it.

Setting aside factories, thinking about a world that doesn't even have the recipe, its value rising isn't strange, it's natural. In this kind of a world where there are such things as half-baked dungeons and magic, mass production technologies never developed.

... Kuh—, to think a copper was one hundred yen, was it a failure in my judgement being too simple?

My standard for converting it to yen was poor, I was calculating it with my modern Japanese experiences.

It also matched how much Ichika said the meal was worth. Ichika should have just spoken more forcibly... wait, I shouldn't expect a slave to speak forcibly huh? It's completely my bad huh.

“By the way, A-Rank adventurers are treated like aristocrats. They are even given actual peerage... That's one of the reasons A-Rank adventurers' standard payments are in [Gold Coins].”

It seems there's a phrase for A-Rank adventurers—[Take out a gold coin despite buying an apple. Don't want change since it's a nuisance.]

It was a phrase meant to ridicule A-Rank adventurer's ridiculous sense of value... yep, I understand how extreme the inflation is.

... Although, there aren't many A-Rank adventurers. From what I've heard there are around twenty of them even if excluding Haku-san's group.

“But even if that's the meal costs, you don't have to pay for Rokuko's portion as well—ah, no, I mean, to be able to offer you a dinner with your beloved Imouto-sama, I am extremely honored. Yes.”

“I really do want to pay her charges as her older sister as well you know? However, you can say this is Rokuko-chan's, the owner's,

home, right? I am compromising and treating this as just a special meal fee, understand?”

“I understand, so please stop sending that bloodthirst over here, sorry—”

“Fufu, it’s fine so long as you understand... Incidentally, for Rokuko-chan’s tip, I wonder if it’s better to pass it to her directly as DP?”

“Y-yeah, that’s right. It’d be better to do that.”

By the way, both Haku-san and Chloe gave us a daily income of [0 DP]. I was hopeful since they’re both A-Rank adventurers, unfortunate.

... I guess it’s natural since Haku-san is a dungeon core, but why Chloe? I wonder if they don’t give daily DP income if they are summoned by a dungeon with DP?

“So, Rokuko-chan, say, “Ahh”?”

“Y-yesh!”

And so, Haku-san had Rokuko prepare herself to be given DP. It’s going to be another kiss scene... is what I thought, but Haku-san stuck her index finger into Rokuko’s mouth.

“—Nn, ku—, nnn—!”

“Trying to pull away is no good you know? ... Ease your shoulders, relax... see? Let it pour in.”

“Nn—, u—nn, faaah, nnn...!”

Haku-san’s cheeks were blushing as Rokuko, who was dyed crimson up to her ears, desperately sucked on her finger... W-what the heck is this?

After a while, she pulled her finger back out of Rokuko’s mouth. Slowly pulling away from her, Rokuko’s saliva trailed between her mouth and the finger.

“... No kiss this time?”

“Yeah. Since Rokuko-chan’s made her official debut as a dungeon as well, considering that other dungeon cores could come to try and crush her, I think it’d be good to have her become accustomed to other methods of delivery than between mucous membranes... At any rate make sure you turn the tables on them alright? At times like that, she won’t have to kiss other dungeon cores.”

Haku-san smiled.

... Oh, then Rokuko's saliva covering your finger from her licking it with her outstretched tongue is unrelated? I want to say that, but it'd be bad for my heart if I carelessly said something like that and got bathed in that bloodthirst again.

"I wonder if you know? There's another dungeon on Tsuia Mountain. You probably won't meet it too soon since it's on the opposite side of the mountain though."

"... Haku-san, you know saying something like that is a flag right?"

"A flag? The thing stuck in the [Omelet Filled with Rice] from the [Avarice Meal]? Is that what you mean?"

"No, never mind..."

The heck, why am getting this very bad feeling?

The Egg's Identity

Come to think of it, Rokuko spent 10,000 DP on an egg a while ago. We don't know what it is, but Haku-san probably does.

Because of that, we consulted her about the egg that had grown about as big as a softball.

... I have no idea why an egg is growing though. Mysterious.

"This is it Haku Ane-sama, do you know what it is?"

"Oh my, this is... it's the first time I've seen one in a while, a phoenix egg... their meat is quite delicious you know?"

According to Haku-san's appraisal, it seemed it was a phoenix egg. And it seems that a phoenix's meat is delicious... I wonder if phoenixes are all-you-can-eat meals?

"An existence who is like a mass of magical power... even its blood is medicinal. There's a lot of various uses for it, it's not that useful as a monster though."

"It isn't strong?"

"Even though it can revive itself if it dies, it's basically just a bird that's on fire you know? It's considered a B-Rank monster when assigned for subjugations because it's an unusual existence, but for simple combat even a solo C-Rank adventurer can hunt it."

Hmm, so it doesn't look like I can make it into a dungeon boss.

Maybe it'd be fine if I just make it appear as a rare monster in the dungeon?

"Incidentally, it needs to be as hot as possible for it to hatch... just putting it inside fire isn't enough. It won't die even if it's frozen though. Even though it's an egg, it's still a phoenix."

... Furthermore, it looks like it'll revive even if the egg is broken. How it does that is a mystery.

It looks like a phoenix can only die of old age. Though since it seems that it'll turn back into an egg when it's old, calling it a death is

questionable.

“A phoenix huuuh, thanks for telling us, Haku Ane-sama... I want to thank you somehow, what should I do?”

“Fufu, Rokuko-chan’s feelings are plenty enough... Ah, but umm, the massage chair in that room... I want it, but... umm, is that no good? If needed I can pay with DP?”

Ooh, a business chance. Gotta increase its worth as much as I can.

“Aah~ so that~? It’s just ticklish for me, not that pleasant... Kehma, can’t we just give it to her for free?”

“There’s no way! ... Is what I want to say, but we’re constantly receiving help from Haku-san, so I guess it’s fine?”

“Oh my, really? I’m glad.”

Haku-san’s face was smiling, but there was something she wasn’t saying: “I wonder what your angle is?”

I returned the best smile I could muster. My face hurts.

“No really, it’s just our goodwill. If anything, please continue to favor our [Dancing Dolls Pavilion] from now on alright?”

“There’s no need to even ask. And?”

“Yes, and since it might trouble us after this... I’d like it if you could tell us about that dungeon on the other side of the mountain.”

“Oh my, it’s simple if that’s all.”

Haku-san laughed lightly and gave us information about the dungeon on the other side of the mountain.

Its name is [Flame Cavern]. It’s location was exactly on the opposite side of Tsuia Mountain.

Adventurers had to be at least C-Rank to enter it. For information disclosure, they also needed to be at least C-Rank.

Monsters that appear in it are fundamentally of the fire type. Occasionally there would be a ground type.

Fire type monsters are... things like a magma slime or red lizard.

Well, that much could be gotten from the guild if you were at least a C-Rank adventurer.

After that, Haku-san gave information that you couldn’t get from the

guild.

Its dungeon core was a salamander type. One hundred and twelve floors.

... Salamander type huh. So it doesn't have to be humanoid.

"There aren't many human types. That's why I dote so much on Rokuko-chan."

Eh. So this person was self aware that she doted on her?

Also, it appears that the [Flame Cavern] had a dungeon master. Moreover, it was a dragon. It was originally a red dragon that built its nest on Tsuia Mountain and was now the dungeon's master.

"Dragons like to hoard shiny things. It's sure to have a lot of treasure you know?"

"No, more importantly, a dragon...? So dragons can also be masters huh."

"So long as the person has intelligence, they are suitable for becoming a master... Or maybe the condition was something like having a name? It's not talked about often, the conditions for becoming a master still aren't well known."

Come to think of it I still don't really know how I became Rokuko's master huh...

From what she told me, once a dungeon core is attached to a master they can't attach themselves to a new master on their own.

"... Ah, right. If you have a dungeon battle with that dungeon, don't use that rat strategy to win."

"Eh? Why not?"

"That dungeon's floors are fundamentally hot. It's not a problem if you're wearing boots, but it's probably too severe for rats. At best their feet would be burnt after the first floor."

I heard something good. I probably would've mass produced some roasted rats if I didn't know about this beforehand.

... Actually, I shouldn't assume that we'll have a dungeon battle. From now on I could just think about ways to not be at a disadvantage... well, it'd cut down on my sleeping hours right? I

went to great lengths to be able to sleep for twelve hours a day recently.

I obtained some rough information from Haku-san.

At any rate, I was able to buy some very useful information. I'm very happy about using that handmade massage chair to obtain this information.

Although adventurers could get information about it, we're E-Ranks right now and wouldn't know until we became C-Ranks. Besides, getting information on a dungeon master is definitely welcome.

"Then again, I did say it's on the other side of the mountain, so you probably won't meet them for a while."

... Haku-san, I can't take that as anything but a flag!

*

In the end, Haku-san firmly hugged Rokuko, reluctant to leave her.

We were able to obtain a lot of various things. Both funds and information.

I've thought this before, but Haku-san is like a bonus character huh... I've come to view her as a god of wealth. Should I pray to her?

Credits

Author	—	Supana Onikage
Publication platform	—	Syosetu
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